



City Manager's Report

*Offices of the City Manager
Elected & Appointed Officials*

8-17-2026

City Manager

Samuel “Sam” Sanders, Jr. (he/him)

During this reporting period, the City Manager continued strengthening regional partnerships, supporting community engagement, and representing the City in collaborative efforts across agencies and organizations.

City Manager Sanders, met with Lois Stanley Senior Vice President for Operations at UVA, to explore regional collaboration opportunities that support shared priorities across the University and the City. Later that evening, he joined residents and staff at National Night Out at Washington Park, offering appreciation to the police and fire departments, emergency management, parks & recreation, and many others whose efforts helped ensure a successful event. He also acknowledged the continued generosity of the Police Foundation and thanked community members who came out in the rain to participate and engage.

On August 5, City Manager Sanders attended the Jaunt Shareholders Meeting, where year-end financial results were reviewed and two new members were approved to serve on the Jaunt Board of Directors, reinforcing the City’s commitment to regional mobility and transit governance.

On August 10, he joined the community in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Jefferson School, recognizing the Jefferson School Foundation and the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center for their ongoing dedication to preserving history, honoring community memory, and expanding opportunities for Charlottesville residents. Later that evening, he spoke at the monthly meeting of the Charlottesville-Albemarle NAACP, addressing questions about neighborhood revitalization, public works maintenance, and affordable housing. City Manager Saunders also reaffirmed the City’s commitment to transparent communication and responsive service.

Office of Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE)

Director: Afton Schneider

CAPE supported back-to-school communications across the City, including introducing the School Resource Officers assigned to Charlottesville High School and Charlottesville Middle School. Content focused on helping students and families get to know the officers, understand their role, and recognize them as a resource within the schools.

CAPE coordinated the City's participation in City Hall Selfie Day along with the Innovation Team on August 11, bringing employees together to celebrate public service and showcase the people behind City services.

Community Communications Around Emergency Shelter/Encampment Transition: CAPE continues to support coordinated public information and community engagement related to the Rivanna riverfront transition and the planned emergency shelter at 2000 Holiday Drive. Recent work has included communications materials for nearby businesses, media coordination, public updates, signage, and messaging to help residents understand upcoming changes and available resources.

CAPE's Charlottesville Community Media Center recently hosted Light House Studio's Summer Film Academy for the third consecutive year, providing local students with access to the City's professional media production facilities. This year's program focused on narrative filmmaking, with students using the studio to shoot material and CAPE staff serving as technical consultants throughout the program. The completed work was shared with participants' families and friends, with films from previous academies going on to be submitted to film festivals.

Charlottesville PEG-TV programming is now available directly on Smart TVs at no cost or subscription. Residents can access CPA-TV and Charlottesville TV10 programming, including community-produced programs and up-to-date civic content, through Roku, Amazon Fire TV, and Apple TV. Search for CPA-TV or Charlottesville TV10 on your device to download the apps and watch on demand.

CAPE participated in the 28th annual Westhaven Community Day, connecting directly with residents and sharing information about how the office can serve as a resource for accessing City information, services, and engagement opportunities. Staff hosted a table during the community resource fair to introduce CAPE's work, answer questions, and help strengthen connections between residents and City government.

CAPE is hosting ongoing Summer Connection sessions with neighborhood leaders and associations to strengthen communication and engagement between neighborhoods and the City. The sessions provide an opportunity to update Neighborhood Factsheets, gather feedback on improvements to the City's neighborhood engagement program, and discuss the transition to [Connect Charlottesville](#).

Office of Budget & Grants Management

Director: Krisy Hammil

The Office of Budget & Grants Management has earned the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 2027 Budget. This award recognizes the team's commitment to clear communication, fiscal responsibility, and long-range financial planning. The office received special recognition for excellence in long-range operating financial plans, with all reviewers assigning the highest possible score.

City Treasurer Office

Treasurer: Jason A. Vandever

The Treasurer's Office is currently processing Zone Parking Permit applications for the permit year beginning September 1. Residents who live in areas experiencing mail-delivery issues are encouraged to obtain their permits in person, as replacing a permit lost in the mail can be difficult. More information is available online <https://www.charlottesville.gov/577/Zone.Parking.Permits> or by emailing the City Treasurer at citytreas@charlottesville.gov.

Commissioner of Revenue's Office

Commissioner of Revenue: Todd Divers (he/him)

The Commissioner of the Revenue's Office continues to support homeowners and families through tax-relief programs and community engagement.

Applications are open from July 1st to September 1st. CHAP provides grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 to help low- and moderate-income homeowners manage the costs of maintaining their homes. To qualify, applicants must live in the City, own their home, meet income and property value guidelines, and provide documentation confirming eligibility. Residents may apply online or in person at City Hall. Staff are available to help applicants with questions throughout the process.

The office is participating again in the Commissioners & Cans Food and Fund Drive Statewide, effort to support local food banks throughout August. Now in its eighth year, the drive helps meet food-security needs during a time of high seasonal demand. Every dollar donated provides roughly four meals to families across the Commonwealth.

Department of Human Services

Director: Misty Graves

DHS has had a highly active summer across youth programming, family services, and community outreach.

Community-Based Services (CBS) hired 15 seasonal Youth Counselor Assistants, welcomed two UVA interns, and is actively recruiting for a full-time Youth Counselor.

Youth participants of the Teens GIVE Program contributed over 1,100 community service hours and completed a five-week life-skills curriculum. Programming included financial literacy, career readiness, public-transportation navigation, meal planning, and wellness activities. The program also partnered with multiple community organizations and partners; and hosted an end-of-summer trip to Kings Dominion.

Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP) received 320 applicants and placed 152 youth across 103 partner sites, achieving a 92 percent completion rate. Several City departments expanded internship opportunities, and 97 youth received banking bonuses for opening and maintaining bank accounts.

Community Attention Foster Families (CAFF) hired a grant-funded Family Services Specialist to support expanded regional kinship-care partnerships. Family-Finding training is scheduled for this month, and regional partner gatherings planned for September aim to strengthen collaboration between localities.

Staff continue to support people living in encampments, offering up-to-date information and connections to services in preparation for the September 1 transition.

Office of Emergency Management

Emergency Management Coordinator: John Oprandy

OEM completed a three-part Continuity of Operations (COOP) exercise series with multiple departments, helping strengthen the City's resilience during potential disruptions. A detailed after-action report summarizing lessons learned will be shared with the City Manager's Office.

Planning continues for a regional shelter-management exercise scheduled for September 9. OEM also finalized procurement for Meridian Barriers and anticipates being fully deployment-ready by December 1 following staff training and site preparations.

OEM is developing new Emergency Operations Center training courses tailored to role-specific responsibilities, with instruction expected later this fiscal year. Staff remain actively engaged in statewide readiness and preparedness efforts.

Human Rights Office

Director: Todd Niemeier

The Human Rights Office continues to advance equity through policy development, community engagement, and case oversight.

Human Rights Commissioners hosted a public panel discussion with neighborhood representatives and community-advocacy organizations to inform legislative recommendations scheduled for Council review. Staff are also conducting additional stakeholder meetings to ensure broad involvement and input in policy formation.

The Office's interns are completing research projects on luxury student housing and mental-health service access. Their findings will support the Commission's fall policy recommendations.

The Office currently manages 25 discrimination cases at varying stages, including mediation, investigation, review, and one scheduled for public hearing.

Office of Economic Development (OED)

Director: Chris Engel

OED continues promoting workforce development and entrepreneurship.

NextGen Skilled Trades Day returns October 17, this event introduces youth and jobseekers to careers in the skilled trades through hands-on experiences and direct engagement with local employers. The event is free and hosted at PVCC.

The next GO Start-Up Program cohort begins September 2. This free, four-week course helps residents develop and refine business ideas, learn core entrepreneurial skills, and connect with local resources. Sessions are held on Wednesday evenings at CitySpace.

Office of Sustainability (OS)

Director: Kristel Riddervold (she/her)

The Office of Sustainability continues implementing initiatives that support the City's resilient climate, environmental, and energy-efficiency goals.

Charlottesville has been accepted as a Sustainability Partner with the Department of Environmental Quality's Virginia's Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP) for the 14th year in a row. Per the acceptance letter "Congratulations! The City of Charlottesville has renewed as a Virginia Environmental Excellence Program
Office of Sustainability (OS) – Continued

Sustainability Partner (VEEP SP) for calendar year 2026. This approval is in recognition of the numerous significant environmental achievements Charlottesville has made to date and the ambitious sustainability goals you have set for the future. Employees throughout your organization should be proud of this accomplishment."

Between July of 2025 and June of 2026, Charlottesville's [Residential Retrofit Mini-Grant Program](#), which supports community members in making energy improvements to their

homes, helped 71 households lower their energy use and save money on their utility bills. City Residents can contact the [Energy Resource Hub](#) to learn more about the program, which will continue in the new fiscal year.

□ Over 30 local businesses and non-profits have signed up for the City's new Commercial Energy Efficiency Program that was announced last month. The program provides small businesses and non-profits with technical assistance and funds to make energy improvements to their buildings and is delivered in partnership with the Community Climate Collaborative. Interested community member can visit the [Energy Resource Hub](#) or [C3's Energy Efficiency Grants Page](#) to learn more.

Climate Program Manager, Emily Irvine, participated in the Annual Career Panel that is part of UVA's Summer Decarbonization Academy.

The Downtown Mall Maintenance Crew has transitioned to fully electric leaf blowers for their daily Mall cleaning operations. These allow for much cleaner and quieter operation than the gas-powered blowers that were used previously. The new electric blowers were purchased jointly by the Office of Sustainability and Parks & Recreation.

The Summer round of the E-bike Voucher Program closed on July 31. 36 voucher recipients were selected and have been notified. The sign-up window for the final round of the 2026 round of the program will be open from October 1 – 31. If you have registered in the past and did not win a voucher, you need to register again to be eligible for a voucher. Learn more at the [Connect Charlottesville E-bike Program](#) page.

The Water Efficiency Program Coordinator, Jill Greiner, attended the Alliance for Water Efficiency Symposium where she presented and ran a workshop on a [Water Conservation Communication and Marketing Guide](#) that she helped develop.

Charlottesville is hosting a rain barrel workshop in partnership with the Rivanna Stormwater Education Partnership and James River Association. The workshop is Thursday, September 3rd at 6pm at Starr Hill Downtown at the Dairy Market. Staff members will instruct workshop participants on how to assemble and install rain barrels at home. The registration fee for the workshop is \$50 and each registration comes with a 55-gallon drum, DIY rain barrel installation kit, and a beverage. Register for the workshop at <https://jotform.com/form/262076188077162>.

The City of Charlottesville in collaboration with Dominion Energy, continues LED Streetlight Upgrade Project installation and upgrades on major roadways across the city. Completed working includes 250 Bypass from Barracks Road exit to River Road. Emmet Street from Angus Road to JPA as well as Ivy Road to West Main Street are currently being scheduled with targeted completion by September. The next roadways submitted for design include 5th Street, Market Street, High Street, JPA, Barracks Road, Preston Ave, Rose Hill, and Grady Ave.

Police Civilian Oversight Board (PCOB)

Director: James Walker

The PCOB continues building its operational framework for independent civilian oversight. A proposed ordinance revision will go to Council on September 8 following City Attorney and independent legal review. The Office continues to monitor police activities, participate in officer-recruit panels, and review use-of-force cases to inform Board oversight.

The Board has finalized its internal-affairs case-review structure and will publish review outcomes at its October meeting. Audit procedures will be formalized upon ordinance adoption.

Community engagement continues through events like National Night Out, school resource-officer discussions, community walks, and ongoing survey analysis. A reimagined staff role focused on community engagement and operational support has been posted.

For additional information, visit the PCOB city webpage here:

<https://www.charlottesville.gov/1440/Police-Civilian-Oversight-Board>

Public Works

Director: Steven Hicks (he/him)

Public Works continues advancing pavement, sidewalk, ADA accessibility, community-engagement, and capital-project development and implementation. Pavement improvements are underway across several streets and expected to finish by August 31st. ADA and sidewalk upgrades along Preston Avenue, Harris Street, Montrose Avenue, and High Street continue, with additional curb-ramp installations beginning in late August.

The department hosted a Fifeville Traffic Calming Pop-up Workshop on August 13 to gather resident feedback on neighborhood transportation concerns, potential interventions, and safety opportunities.

Public Works also celebrated the grand opening of the renovated Charlottesville Middle School, a multi-year capital project delivered on schedule and within budget despite complex site conditions.